

What is IRWM?

Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) is a collaborative effort to identify and implement water management solutions on a regional scale that increase regional self-reliance, reduce conflict, and manage water to concurrently achieve social, environmental, and economic objectives. IRWM is the application of [Integrated Water Management \(IWM\)](#) principles on a regional scale.

How does IRWM support water management in California?

IRWM enables self-identified regions to integrate and implement water management solutions for their region, which is a foundation of Action 2 in the [California Water Action Plan](#). The fundamental principle of IRWM is that regional water managers, who are organized into regional water management groups (RWMGs), are best suited and best positioned to manage water resources to meet regional needs. While large inter-regional water management systems, such as the State Water Project, Central Valley Project, and flood management systems, are important, the majority of California's water resource management investments are made at the local and regional level. IRWM has been critical in helping meet California's water management challenges, including the 2014 drought.

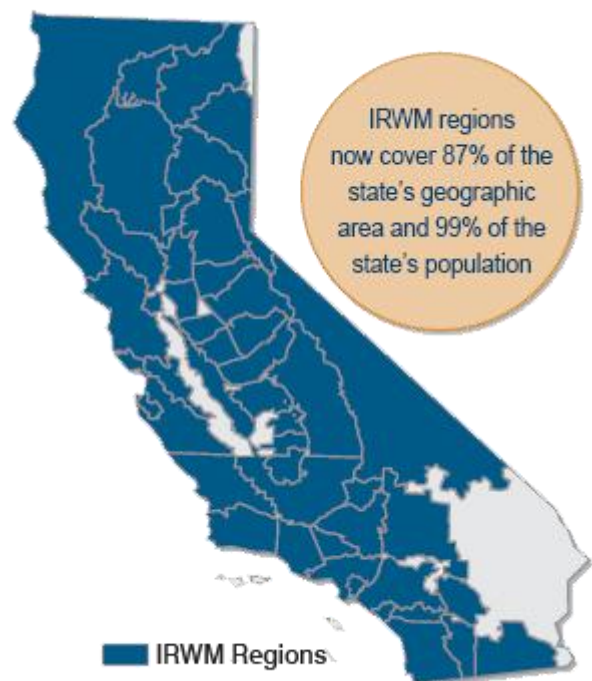
How does DWR support IRWM?

DWR's support of RWMGs includes grants and technical and facilitation services. Numerous IRWM planning grants have helped RWMGs develop and adopt IRWM plans for their regions. IRWM implementation grants have helped make more than 350 IRWM projects a reality across the state. Key technical support to RWMGs is provided by DWR's four Region Offices, located in Glendale, Fresno, West Sacramento, and Red Bluff. DWR staff, known as Regional Service Representatives, are the day-to-day contacts for RWMGs, providing information about IRWM and other DWR programs, managing IRWM grant agreements, and serving as the principal contact for technical support and facilitation services.

Background

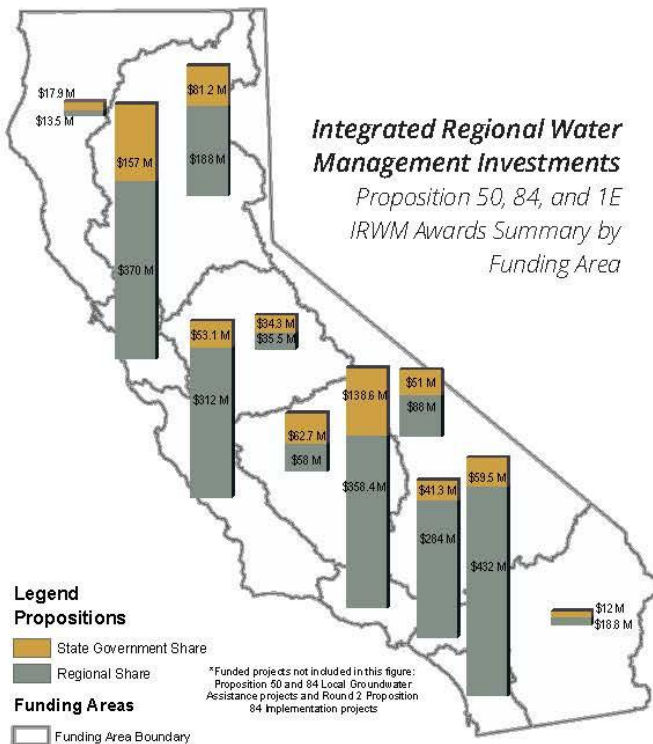
DWR's IRWM story began in 2002 when the Regional Water Management Planning Act (SB 1672) was passed by the Legislature. Bond acts approved by California voters have provided \$1.5 billion to support and advance IRWM. Cities, counties, water districts, community groups, and others across the state have worked with one another to organize and establish RWMGs. These RWMGs have defined 48 IRWM regions that together cover 87 percent of the state's area and 99 percent of its population.

Currently, DWR is developing, together with IRWM stakeholders, the strategic plan for the future of IRWM in California. The plan will define the desired future for the practice of IRWM and will identify goals, objectives, and



strategies needed to achieve that future.

Delivering Integrated Actions to Build Resiliency

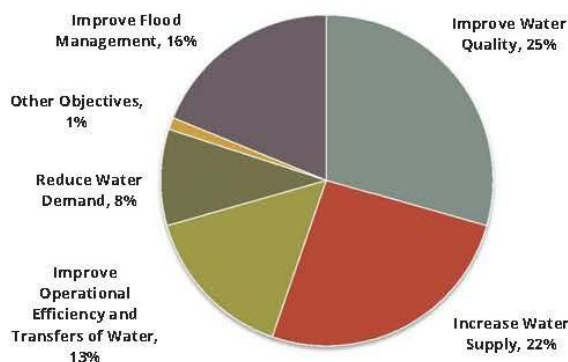


A Decade of Investment in Integrated Water Management

Thanks to voter-approved bond measures Propositions 50, 84, and 1E, DWR has been awarding grants since 2002 to make possible regional planning and on-the-ground projects that provide a wide range of benefits to California. Nearly \$750M has been competitively awarded and leveraged by \$2.3B in local funds. This tremendous investment has resulted in formation of 48 collaborative regional water management groups, completion of 37 comprehensive management plans, and funding for more than 500 projects. Benefits range from improving water quality to increasing water supply, protecting environmental resources, increasing water use efficiency, and improving flood management.

In addition to the IRWM Grant Program, DWR has several other grant programs that have awarded funds to a number of other projects over the last decade, such as agricultural and urban water use efficiency, desalination, and flood protection. The Agricultural and Urban Water Management Grant Programs have awarded \$88M to date to help urban and agricultural communities cope with water shortages and drought conditions through the implementation of water use efficiency projects; these projects were leveraged by \$148M in local funds. The Desalination Grant Program has awarded \$38.5M to date for planning, construction, and research related to brackish and seawater desalination projects; these projects were leveraged by \$127M in local funds. The Urban Flood Risk Reduction, Local Levee Assistance, and Yuba Feather Flood Protection Programs have awarded \$786M to date to reduce flood risk to rural, small communities, and urban areas statewide by repairing levees and improving public safety; these projects were leveraged by \$310M in local funds.

Projected Benefits of Implementation and Stormwater Flood Management Projects Propositions 50, 84 (Round 1), and 1E (Round 1 and 2)



Since 2002, the State of California has invested nearly \$750 million in Prop 50, 84, and 1E funding for integrated regional water management planning, implementation, and stormwater flood management projects throughout the State.

****NOTE:** Percent based on number of projects; not costs. Projects may employ greater than one CWP Water Management Objective, except for Statewide Flood Management assumed to solely employ "Improve Flood Management"

